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1 October 1946

Country: Czechoslovakia

Subject: Possible Replacement of Soviet Ambassador Zorin; Relations Between Zorin and Fierlinger

Information date:

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Evaluation:

Reference:

1. According to rumors now circulating in well-informed Czechoslovak Government circles, Zorin, the Soviet ambassador to Prague, may be recalled in the near future.

2. This report apparently owes its origin to the cordial relationship which continues to exist between Zorin and Deputy Prime Minister Zdenek Fierlinger. This close friendship dates back to the time when, during the war, Zorin was chief of the Czechoslovak section of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs. In fact, it is now generally conceded that Fierlinger's appointment as Prime Minister in the Provisional Government was due largely to the backing he had from the Russians.

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3. Fierlinger still receives confidential information beforehand on many matters of state that should first come to the attention of Prime Minister Gottwald. When the Czechoslovak delegation was about to leave for Moscow recently, Fierlinger tried to be included as a member. Apparently Gottwald refused to grant the request. Gottwald is also reported to have hinted during his Moscow visit that Zorin should be replaced.

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